

NOTICE 02-GRC-01  
NASA Glenn Research Center at Lewis Field  
Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and NASA's Procedures for Implementing NEPA (14 CFR Subpart 1216.3), the National Aeronautics and Space Agency (NASA) served as a cooperating agency in the preparation and issuance of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Proposed Replacement Runway, Runway Extension and Associated Development at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport Cleveland, Ohio (June 2000). The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) was the lead agency for the NEPA process. NASA's action associated with the airport development project principally is the transfer of certain real property known as the "South 40" to the City of Cleveland and the relocation of NASA facilities now on the South 40 property. The Record of Decision (ROD), which selected the EIS' preferred alternative, was released in November 2000.

In Appendix A to the ROD, responding to an earlier comment by NASA, the FAA stated that "The FAA and the City of Cleveland will work with NASA to ensure that the NASA South 40 facilities have been relocated prior to commencement of aircraft operations on the replacement Runway 5L/23R." NASA's comment arose from concerns over potential impacts on Glenn personnel working in the South 40 area due to new flight operations and potential hazards to the flying public from liquid hydrogen stored and used on the site.

Construction and relocation schedules have not kept pace with each other in the intervening time since the ROD was published. The City of Cleveland wishes to commence flight operations on Runway 6L/24R on December 14, 2002 or as soon thereafter as possible, prior to completing the relocation of the NASA South 40 facilities. The FAA and NASA have prepared and agreed upon a Modification of Record of Decision to allow flight operations using new Runway 6L/24R, subject to implementation of the mitigation measures described in the Modification of ROD. These mitigation measures include, but are not limited to, no storage or use of hydrogen on the South 40 property, noise reduction measures to protect affected NASA personnel, and flight operations protocols to ensure safety.

Mitigation measures will minimize any threats to safety of the public and at NASA resulting from flight operations on the new runway prior to relocation and shutdown of the existing NASA South 40 facilities.

Questions and requests for a copy of the Modification of Record of Decision should be addressed to:

Mr. Michael Blotzer: Chief, Environmental Management Office, NASA John H. Glenn Research Center at Lewis Field, 21000 Brookpark Road, Mail Stop 6-4, Cleveland, Ohio 44135 or call (216) 433-8159.

An electronic version of the Modification of Record of Decision is also available on Glenn Research Center's Web Site at <http://osat-ext.grc.nasa.gov/emo/pub/mod-record-airport.pdf>.

*Vernon W. Wessel 12/6/02*

Vernon W. Wessel  
Director of Safety and Assurance Technologies